Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03158 01 OF 03 211633Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 XMB-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-02 L-03 H-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OES-07 IO-14 NRC-07 /170 W

-----108022 211720Z /40

R 211622Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6033

DEPARTMENT TREASURY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 03158

DEPARTMENT PASS EXIMBANK FOR ALBRIGHT ALSO USOECD

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SHARP INCREASE IN FRG EXPORT CREDIT GUARANT-IES IN 1977

1. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY FIGURES RELEASED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS, EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTIES GRANTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS AGENT HERMES KREDITVERSICHERUNGS-A.G. (HERMES CREDIT INSURANCE CORP.) INCREASED BY DM 51.3 BILLION IN 1977. THIS WORKS OUT TO A 51 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1976 AND CONSTITUTES A CONTINUATION IN THE TREND OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS FOR GREATER USE OF GOVERNUNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BONN 03158 01 OF 03 211633Z

MENT GUARANTIES IN GERMANY'S FOREIGN TRADE.

2. THE VALUE OF EXPORT TRANSACTIONS WHICH WERE INSURED IN 1977 AMOUNTED TO DM 33.7 BILLION OR 12.3 PERCENT OF TOTAL GERMAN GOODS EXPORTS. IN 1976, FOR COMPARISON, GUARANTIES COVERED AN EXPORT VALUE OF DM 26.2 BILLION WHICH WAS 10.2 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS. THE REMAINDER

OF THE DM 51.3 BILLION OR DM 17.6 BILLION IN EXPORT GUARANTIES COVERED INSURED INTEREST PAYMENTS, PRODUCTION RISKS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS.

- 3. IN A BRIEF COMMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS, THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY POINTS TO ISSUANCE OF GUARANTIES TO COVER "LARGE" EXPORT PROJECTS AS A PRIMARY FACTOR IN THE SHARP INCREASE IN 1977. THIS INCLUDES, AMONG OTHER SALES, THE DELIVERY OF TWO NUCLEAR POWER INSTALLATIONS TO BRAZIL. THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY FIGURES ALSO SHOW THAT ON A REGIONAL BREAKOUT EXPORTS TO OPEC COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A LARGE AND DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NEWLY-ISSUED GUARANTIES.
- 4. TO KEEP PACE WITH THE STEADILY INCREASING DEMAND FOR EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED ITS AUTHORIZATION CEILING IN RECENT YEARS RATHER SHARPLY. IN 1977 THE CEILING ON OUTSTANDING GUARANTIES WAS SET AT DM 110 BILLION OF WHICH DM 82.2 BILLION HAD BEEN UTILIZED. IN 1976 THE CEILING WAS DM 75 BILLION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED INCREASING THE 1978 CEILING TO DM 130 BILLION.
- 5. IN ADDITION TO GUARANTIES GRANTED TO COVER EXPORT CREDITS ON REALIZED FOREIGN SALES, HERMES WILL ISSUE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BONN 03158 01 OF 03 211633Z

COMMITMENTS ON TRANSACTIONS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION. AT YEAR END 1977, THESE (PRELIMINARY) COMMITMENTS AMOUNTED TO DM 80 BILLION AS COMPARED TO DM 65 BILLION FOR 1976, DM 57.8 BILLION FOR 1975 AND ONLY DM 18.5 BILLION AT THE END OF 1974 - AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF ALMOST 63 PERCENT.

6. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPORT CREDIT

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PAGE 01 BONN 03158 02 OF 03 211637Z

ACTION EUR-12

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DEPARTMENT TREASURY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 03158

INSURANCE SYSTEM FROM 1974 ONWARD ARE SUMMARIZED IN THE TABLES BELOW:

 1974
 230.6
 15.2
 6.6

 1975
 221.6
 19.8
 8.9

 1976
 256.6
 26.2
 10.2

 1977
 273.5
 33.7
 12.3

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PAGE 02 BONN 03158 02 OF 03 211637Z

NEWLY GUARANTIES

GUARANTY ISSUED PERC. CHANGE OUTSTANDING
CEILING GUARANTIES OVER PRE- AT END OF YEAR
(DM BILL.) (DM BILL.) VIOUS YEAR (DM BILL.)

 1974
 40
 19.7
 80.7
 39.7

 1975
 60
 26.4
 34.0
 48.9

 1976
 75
 34.0
 28.8
 69.3

 1977
 110
 51.3
 50.9
 82.2

FRG EXPORT INSURANCE BROKEN DOWN BY REGION DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS:

OUTSTANDING GUARANTIES AT YEAR END

BILLION DM PERCENT SHARE

1975 1976 1977 1975 1976 1977

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NON-OPEC DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES 1/ 16.0 23.7 25.6 32.8 34.2 31.1 OPEC COUNTRIES 16.6 26.1 35.9 33.9 37.7 43.7

EAST BLOC COUNTRIES

11.6 13.8 14.3 23.7 19.9 17.4

OTHER COUNTRIES 3/ 3.0 3.5 4.0 6.1 5.0 4.9

NOT BROKEN DOWN 4/ 1.7 2.2 2.4 3.5 3.2 2.9

TOTAL 48.9 69.3 82.2 100 100 100

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PAGE 01 BONN 03158 03 OF 03 211637Z ACTION EUR-12

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DEPARTMENT TREASURY

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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 03158

- 1/ SINCE 1976 INCLUDING PORTUGAL
- 2/ EXCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA
- 3/ MAINLY WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, UP TO 1975 INCLUDING PORTUGAL
- 4/ PRINCIPALLY LUMP-SUM GUARANTIES (PAUSCHALGARANTIEN),
- I.E., GUARANTIES FOR PRINCIPALLY ALL EXPORT OF ONE
- EXPORTER TO VARIOUS CUSTOMERS

7. HERMES PAYMENTS FOR DAMAGES ROSE SHARPLY IN 1977 INCREASING TO DM 156.3 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH DM 45.6 MILLION IN 1976. THE BULK OF THE PAYMENTS, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WERE FOR POLITICAL DAMAGES. THESE ALMOST QUADRIPLED IN 1977 WHILE PAYMENTS FOR ECONOMIC DAMAGES DECLINED SLIGHTLY. HOWEVER, COMPARED WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BONN 03158 03 OF 03 211637Z

DM 82.2 BILLION OF GUARANTIES OUTSTANDING AT THE END OF 1977 DAMAGE PAYMENTS REMAINED INSIGNIFICANT. HERMES RECEIPTS OF FEES FOR GUARANTIES, DUE TO THE RAPID INCREASE IN NEWLY-ISSUED GUARANTIES, ALSO INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN 1977, RISING FROM DM 327 MILLION IN 1976 TO DM 407 MILLION IN 1977, OR BY 24 PERCENT.

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